

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: CANADIAN LABOR CONGRESS CONVENTION SECOND MESSAGE

REF: QUEBEC 0107

1. ED BROADBENT, LEADER OF THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY ADDRESSED THE CLC VONVENTION ON APRIL 6 SHORTLY BEFORE THE UNANIMOUS UNCONTESTED ELECTION OF DENNIS MCDERMOTT AS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE CLC. BROADBENT MADE AN EXPECTED ANTIRUDEAU ADMINISTRATION SPEECH AND ASKED FOR A NEW INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY CONCENTRATING ON INVESTMENT PRIORITIES. SPECIFICALLY HE DEMANDED THAT BOTH LABOR AND MATERIAL CONTENT OF THE ALASKA HIGHWAY GAS PIPELINE BE CANADIAN. HE ASLSO ATTACKED THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY AND ASKED LABOR TO OPPOSE THE PC AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE LIBERALS. BROADBENT RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION.

2. ON APRIL 5 SEVERAL CONFIRMED RESOLUTIONS CAME OUT OF WORKING COMMITTEES AND WERE APPROVED IN PLENARY SESSION. ONE ON TECHNOLOGICAL

CHANGE INCLUDED LANGUAGE FOR A BETTER AUTOMOBILE PACT WITH THE THE UNITED STATES. ANOTHER ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION STRONGLY OPPOSED "RIGHT TO WORK" ACTIVITY SUPPORTED BY EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS.
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ANOTHER RESOLUTION ASKED FOR POLITICAL ACTION SUPPORT AGAINST PENDING BILL C-28. AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC SERVICE STAFF RELATIONS ACT WHICH IF PASSED BY PARLIAMENT WILL ADJUST GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SALARIES USING A COMPARABILITY FORMULA WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR. C-28 ALSO CALLS FOR THE REMOVAL OF HIGH SALARIED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES FROM THE UNION'S BARGAINING UNIT. THE DELEGATES

ENTHUSIASTICALLY VOTED TO WORK FOR THE DEFEAT OF BILL C-28.

3. A MAJOR SETBACK FOR THE CLC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WAS ITS FAILURE TO WIN A TWO THIRDS VOTE ON A RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE CONSTITUTIONAL CLAUSE GOVERNING THE SELECTION OF DELEGATES TO FUTURE CONVENTIONS. AFTER HEATED DEBATE MORE THAN ONE THIRD OF THE DELEGATES VOTED NOT TO ACCEPT THE NEW PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION STRUCTURE. HEATED DEBATE ALSO FOLLOWED A MOTION TO RAISE THE SALARIES OF THE FOUR PRINCIPAL OFFICERS BUT THE MOTION CARRIED.

4. AN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS POLICY STATEMENT WAS APPROVED. IT URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO PULL OUT OF NORAD; TO DEEMPHASIZE THE MILITARY ASPECT OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION; TO NOT RECOGNIZE THE PINOCHET GOVERNMENT IN CHILE; TO OPPOSE THE SALE OF CANADIAN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO ARGENTINA; TO COOPERATE WITH THE CHURCH TASK FORCE THE TRADE UNION ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE OECD AND ICFTU IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ENFORCE SOCIAL STANDARDS ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS. APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA CAME UNDER ATTACK AND THE CLC PROMISES TO ASSIST THE DEVELOPMENT OF FREE TRADE UNIONS SOUTH OF THE SAHARA.

7. THE REPORT ASKS FOR THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL SEA-BED AUTHORITY TO CONTROL AND TAX ALL MINING ACTIVITIES IN THE SEAS. IT ALSO STATES THAT COASTAL STATES SHOULD EXERCISE RIGHTS OVER THE WHOLE OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF INCLUDING THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTINENTAL SLOPE AND RISE. THE REPORT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE AFL-CIO WOULD SOON REAFFILIATE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS.

8. COMMENT: THE CONVENTION HAS BEEN ORDERLY CONSIDERING THE ENORMOUS NUMBER OF DELEGATES. THE ATMOSPHERE IS FRIENDLY AND DECIDEDLY PRO NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. MCNAMARA

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